



# Visitor Guide

The official visitor guide  
of Redwood National and State Parks

Fog-shrouded old-growth forest in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Coast redwoods gather up to one-third of their annual moisture from coastal fog.

## The “Coast” in Coast Redwoods

A COOL BREEZE POURS DOWN FROM DISTANT GREEN HILLS to the ocean. Last night’s high tide scoured the beach, erasing yesterday’s footprints. Long gray trunks—remnants of once colossal trees—litter the sand, floated out from nearby creeks and tossed unceremoniously upon the shore. Glancing east, fingers of fog drift down the narrow canyons backlit by the sun rising over the spired tips of towering coast redwoods.

It’s a typical spring morning on California’s North Coast. Here, a delicate balance of ocean and earth is home to a forest of giants.

Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) require an enormous amount of moisture to survive. A single old-growth coast redwood tree consumes up to 500 gallons of water each day! The Pacific Ocean slakes this thirst: From October through April, a high pressure area sitting atop the North Pacific drives a series of winter storms onshore, dumping the majority of 60-80 inches of annual rain over the region. In summer, the high pressure area migrates north, taking with it the heavy clouds and storms of winter. The California Current pulls warm surface water away from the coast, bringing deeper and colder water from the ocean’s depths close to shore. Where cold ocean and dry land meet, moisture is created: a narrow band of fog seeps up deeply eroded river canyons, shrouding coast redwoods in life-sustaining moisture during the drier summer. It is estimated that coast redwoods gather up to a third of their annual moisture from this fog.

Just a few miles offshore, the Gorda Plate pushes firmly against the North American Plate, slowly slipping beneath its bigger neighbor. Pushed skyward by the continuing collision of continents, the Coast Range traps this moist, cool air where coast redwoods thrive. Deeply cut river valleys in these freshly raised mountains supply the redwood forests with rich soil, flowing water, and shelter from the most damaging storms.

These oceanic influences ensure fairly constant year-round temperatures along California’s redwood coast: mid-50s to mid-60s°F—see chart on page 2. (Locals complain about the heat when it reaches 70°F!) While coast redwoods can survive brief



More than just a pretty forest: 37 miles of stunning Pacific Ocean coastline—including Hidden Beach, shown above—await visitors to Redwood National and State Parks.

heat waves and short bursts of winter chill, the moderate, almost Mediterranean climate permits redwoods to focus their energies on growing to extraordinary heights, rather than in protecting themselves from nature’s extremes. Humans, however, may be creating new challenges. Recent studies suggest that rising global temperatures are changing regional fog patterns. A long-term decrease in fog would severely impact the coast redwoods’ ability to outlast periods of extended drought.

While the awe-inspiring forests of Redwood National and State Parks likely brought you here, 37 miles of dramatic, scenic coastline beckon you to see more than the trees. Whether backpacking along an isolated beach or just enjoying a jaw-dropping panorama, you’ll gain further appreciation for the coast as a nursery for the world’s tallest living things. But you may also be compelled to consider your role in ensuring similar experiences in this special place for future generations. What’s good for the coast is good for coast redwoods. After all, they grow only here for a reason.

Jeff Denny, Park Ranger

### Coastal Focus...4

Miles of coast to explore, but where to start? Park Ranger Pete Peterson offers an inside tip for visiting one of his favorite seaside locations. Also, discover the best places for viewing coastal and marine wildlife (including whales!), and learn how you can help protect these resources—wherever you live!

### Short Walks...6

Pressed for time, or looking for a leisurely, family-friendly way to sample Redwood’s riches? You’re in luck! Some of the parks’ most spectacular trails are also short and easy. Our recommended walks feature ancient, old-growth forests and a coastal stroll with stunning views.



### Scenic Drives...7

Just passing through? Our recommended scenic drives through ancient forests, rugged coastline, upland prairies, and oak woodlands will have you planning a return visit in no time! If you’re in a motorhome/RV or pulling a trailer, please acknowledge any vehicle type/size advisories and restrictions.

### Camping...10

Redwood’s campgrounds and backcountry campsites offer truly unique opportunities for individuals and groups of diverse ages, interests, and skills. Campers with bikes or horses are welcome, too! Careful planning and knowledge of camping regulations will help ensure an enjoyable and safe experience.

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## National or State Park?

It's both! In May 1994, the National Park Service and California State Parks agreed to cooperatively manage their contiguous redwood parklands. Both park systems have a long history working together that dates back to Yosemite, which became California's first state park in 1864. Though designated a national park in 1890, Yosemite was briefly managed by both state and federal governments.

Redwood National and State Parks manages these 133,000 acres to preserve, protect, and make available to all people, for their inspiration, enjoyment, and education, the forests, scenic coastlines, prairies, and streams and their associated natural and cultural values, which define this World Heritage Site; and to help people forge emotional, intellectual, and recreational ties to these parks.

**Mailing Address**  
Redwood National and State Parks  
1111 Second Street  
Crescent City, Calif. 95531

**Web and E-mail**  
[www.nps.gov/redw](http://www.nps.gov/redw)  
For e-mail, click "Contact Us"

**Park Headquarters**  
ph: 707-465-7335  
fax: 707-464-1812

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The Redwood National and State Parks Visitor Guide is provided by the Redwood Parks Association in cooperation with Redwood National and State Parks, 2011.

**Newspaper Editor**  
Michael Glore

# Information Centers: A Great Start

Five information centers provide orientation, information, and trip-planning advice. Park rangers are on duty. Cooperating association (see right) bookstores offer books, maps, and more.

**Crescent City Information Center**

*Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, Junior Ranger workbook.*

**Location:** 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, Calif.

**Operating Hours:** *Summer:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; *Winter:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; *Spring and fall:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Phone:** 707-465-7335

**Hiouchi Information Center**

*Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.*

**Location:** 9 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 199.

**Operating Hours:** *Summer:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; *Off-season:* As staffing permits—please call ahead.

**Phone:** 707-458-3294

**Jedediah Smith Visitor Center**

*Information, exhibits, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.*

**Location:** Jedediah Smith Campground (see page 10), 9 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 199.

**Operating Hours:** *Summer:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Off-season:* Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., as staffing permits.

**Phone:** 707-458-3496

**Prairie Creek Visitor Center**

*Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.*

**Location:** 6 miles north of Orick, Calif. on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway (exit off U.S. 101).

**Operating Hours:** Open daily (*year-round*), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Phone:** 707-488-2171

**Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center**

*Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.*

**Location:** 2 miles south of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101.

**Operating Hours:** *Summer:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; *Winter:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; *Spring and fall:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Phone:** 707-465-7765

## We Can't Do It Alone!

Redwood Parks Association (RPA) is a not-for-profit cooperating association established to aid and support the interpretive programs within Redwood National and State Parks and other public lands along California's North Coast. Proceeds from sales at visitor centers and online (see below) are returned directly to the parks to support interpretive staffing needs, special events, exhibits, signage, and publications—including this visitor guide.

To learn more (or to shop!), visit RPA online at: [www.redwoodparksassociation.org](http://www.redwoodparksassociation.org).

**Top:** The Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center near Orick, Calif. **Bottom:** National and state park rangers assist visitors at the Crescent City Information Center.

Don't forget your park passport stamps, available at all information centers!

## The Fine Print: What You Need to Know

**Dates and Hours of Operation**

Redwood National and State Parks is always open. Information centers (above) and campgrounds (see page10) maintain seasonal hours of operation.

**Fees and Reservations**

Redwood National Park is free to visit. Jedediah Smith Redwood, Del Norte Coast Redwood, and Prairie Creek Redwood state parks collect day-use fees at campground entrance stations. Fees are required at all campgrounds and some backcountry campsites; reservations may also be required (see pages 10-11).

**Firearms and Hunting**

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws to possess firearms in National Park Service-administered lands within Redwood National and State Parks. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering National Park Service-administered lands within Redwood National and State Parks. Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the national park; those places will be marked with signs at all public entrances.

State laws prohibit firearms in California State Parks-administered lands.

Hunting (and/or any discharge of firearms) is prohibited in Redwood National and State Parks.

**Permits**

Permits may be required for scientific research, collecting, organized events, and commercial activities such as filming. Call 707-465-7307 or visit [www.nps.gov/redw](http://www.nps.gov/redw) for more information.

**Backcountry**

Permits are required for camping at some backcountry campsites; fees may apply (see page 10).

**Tall Trees Access Road**

The gated Tall Trees Access Road is only accessible via free permit available from the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center (see above). A maximum of 50 permits per day are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Sportfishing**

Ocean and freshwater sportfishing requires a California fishing license for those 16 years-old and older and must be in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) regulations (available online at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)). For more information, contact any information center (see above) or the CDFG Northern Region Field Office in Eureka at (707) 445-6493.

**Collecting and Vandalism**

With the exception of apples (five per person per day) and berries, acorns, hazel nuts and unoccupied seashells (one gallon per person per day), disturbing, defacing, or collecting plants, animals, rocks, historic or archaeological objects without a permit is prohibited. Please leave these resources as you find them for others to enjoy.

Crescent City, Calif. Weather			
Month	Average High	Average Low	Average Precip.
January	54.1°F (12.3°C)	39.5°F (4.2°C)	11.6" (29.5 cm)
February	55.7°F (13.2°C)	40.5°F (4.7°C)	9.9" (25.2 cm)
March	56.9°F (13.8°C)	40.9°F (4.9°C)	9.0" (22.7 cm)
April	59.1°F (15.1°C)	42.4°F (5.8°C)	5.3" (13.6 cm)
May	61.9°F (16.6°C)	45.3°F (7.4°C)	3.5" (8.8 cm)
June	64.9°F (18.3°C)	48.3°F (9.1°C)	1.6" (4.0 cm)
July	66.9°F (19.4°C)	50.6°F (10.3°C)	0.5" (1.1 cm)
August	67.3°F (19.6°C)	50.9°F (10.5°C)	0.6" (1.6 cm)
September	67.6°F (19.8°C)	49.1°F (9.5°C)	1.8" (4.7 cm)
October	64.1°F (17.8°C)	46.2°F (7.9°C)	5.2" (13.3 cm)
November	58.4°F (14.7°C)	42.9°F (6.1°C)	9.9" (25.0 cm)
December	54.7°F (12.6°C)	40.1°F (4.5°C)	11.7" (29.6 cm)

**Safety**

The wild animals, plants, waterways, and other natural features, as well as certain weather conditions that occur here, can be dangerous. For more information about protecting yourself and your parks, see page 12.

**In case of emergency dial:**  
**911**

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# Ranger-Led Programs & Activities

BE PART OF A NATIONAL AND STATE parks tradition! Park rangers and other staff lead a variety of seasonally available activities and programs throughout the parks that are free, informative, and fun for all ages and backgrounds.

*Programs available mid-May to mid-September. Inquire at information centers (left) or campground bulletin boards for times, topics, and locations.*

### JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMS (1 HOUR)

Children ages 7-12 have fun while learning about the people, plants, animals, and life systems of the redwood region. Allow one hour for scheduled programs at the Jedediah Smith Campground, Mill Creek Campground, or Prairie Creek Visitor Center; self-paced junior ranger activities are available at all visitor centers. See page 9 for more activities and information.



### TIDEPOOL WALK (2 HOURS, AS TIDES PERMIT)

Get your hands (and feet!) wet while discovering delicate tidepool creatures. A park ranger-naturalist leads this investigation into the hidden world beneath the waves. *Come prepared: dress for the weather; bring drinking water and a snack; wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots (no sandals) with non-slip soles—they will get wet!*



### CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS (1 HOUR)

As darkness descends on the North Coast, the Jedediah Smith, Mill Creek, and Elk Prairie campgrounds (see page 10) are ideal settings for an informative and inspiring night cap. Programs may include narrated slide shows, storytelling, music, and/or games. Campfire circles and outdoor amphitheaters are wheelchair accessible.



### NATURE WALKS (1-2 HOURS)

Immerse yourself in the forest, sea, or prairielands. Join a park ranger-naturalist for a down-to-earth exploration of the natural communities that contribute to one of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. *Come prepared: dress for the weather; bring drinking water and a snack; wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots with non-slip soles.*

## FAQs: Where can I...



### ...take my pet for a walk?

With the exception of guide animals, pets are not allowed on park trails, at ranger-led programs, or in park buildings. Pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length are allowed on all road-accessible beaches (excluding dune habitat), within 100 feet of public roads and parking areas, and at designated picnic areas, only.



### ...have a campfire?

Fires are only permitted: in park-provided grills and fire rings at picnic areas, campgrounds, and designated backcountry campsites; on Redwood Creek gravel bars, per conditions of a valid permit; and, on beach wave slopes. Up to 50 pounds of dead and downed wood (including driftwood) may be collected by hand for use as firewood at these locations.



### ...ride my bicycle?

Bicycles are permitted on all public roadways open to vehicle traffic, as well as on designated backcountry bicycle routes (see page 11). Biker/hiker campsites are available at all developed campgrounds and at some backcountry campsites. See pages 10-11 for more information.



### ...ride my horse or travel with pack animals?

Travel with horses and/or pack animals is permitted only on trails designated for that purpose (see page 11). Camping with horses is allowed at two stock-ready campsites along these routes; free permit may be required. Inquire at any information center (see page 2) or see pages 10-11 for more information.



### ...take my motorhome, RV, or trailer?

With the exception of major highways, the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, and access roads to information centers and campgrounds (though length limits may apply—see page 10), motorhomes, recreational vehicles (RVs), and trailers are either ill-advised or prohibited on other roadways. Check-out the map on pages 6-7 or inquire at any information center (see page 2) for additional information.



### ...have a picnic?

Picnic tables are available at numerous locations throughout the parks, including all information centers (see page 2). **Help Keep Wildlife Wild:** never feed wildlife; properly dispose of all garbage—even crumbs; store food and other odorous items in airtight containers, out-of-sight in a locked car or bear-proof locker.



### ...find lodging?

While there are no lodging services (hotels, motels, or hostels, etc.) within Redwood National and State Parks, lodging is available in and around nearby communities—contact local chambers of commerce (see “Area Information,” above) for more information.



### ...dine or purchase groceries?

There are no food services within Redwood National and State Parks. Restaurants and groceries are available in and around nearby communities—contact local chambers of commerce for more information (see “Area Information,” above). Full-service grocery stores are available in Brookings, Ore., and Crescent City, Trinidad, McKinleyville, Arcata, and Eureka, Calif.



### ...go camping?

Camping is permitted: in four developed campgrounds; at numerous *designated* backcountry camps; and at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars upstream of Bond Creek and no closer than ¼-mile from Tall Trees Grove. Permits, reservations, and/or fees may apply—see pages 10-11 for more info. Outside the national and state parks, tent, trailer, and RV camping may be available on adjacent public lands or nearby private campgrounds. Inquire at any information center or contact local chambers of commerce (see “Area Information,” above) for additional information.

## Area Information Chambers of Commerce & Visitor Bureaus

### Arcata, Calif.

**California Welcome Center**  
1635 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521  
ph: 707-822-3619  
web: [www.arcatachamber.com](http://www.arcatachamber.com)

### Brookings, Ore.

16330 Lower Harbor Road  
Brookings, OR 97415  
ph: 541-469-3181 or 800-535-9469  
web: [www.brookingsor.com](http://www.brookingsor.com)

### Crescent City, Calif. / Del Norte County

1001 Front Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
ph: 707-464-3174 or 800-343-8300  
web: [www.northerncalifornia.net](http://www.northerncalifornia.net)

### Eureka, Calif.

2112 Broadway Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
ph: 707-442-3738 or 800-356-6381  
web: [www.eurekachamber.com](http://www.eurekachamber.com)

### Humboldt County Convention & Visitors Bureau

1034 2nd Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
ph: 800-346-3482  
web: [www.redwoods.info](http://www.redwoods.info)

### Klamath, Calif.

P.O. Box 476  
Klamath, CA 95548  
ph: 707-482-7165 or 800-200-2335  
web: [www.klamathcc.org](http://www.klamathcc.org)

### McKinleyville, Calif.

1640 Central Ave.  
McKinleyville, CA 95519  
ph: 707-839-2449  
web: [www.mckinleyvillechamber.com](http://www.mckinleyvillechamber.com)

### Orick, Calif.

P.O. Box 234  
Orick, CA 95555  
ph: 707-488-2885  
web: [www.orick.net](http://www.orick.net)

### Trinidad, Calif.

P.O. Box 356  
Trinidad, CA 95570  
ph: 707-677-1610  
web: [www.discovertrinidadca.com](http://www.discovertrinidadca.com)

## What's Left of the Redwoods?



**~5% remains:**  
4.7% preserved in public lands  
≤ 1% privately owned & managed

### ...see some really tall trees?

When logging began in 1850, roughly two million acres of ancient or “old-growth” coast redwood forest canopy mantled the coastal mountains of California. Today, just about five percent remains. Redwood National and State Parks preserves over 35 percent of all remaining, protected old-growth coast redwood forests in California.

To experience these rare yet iconic forests yourself, refer to the map on pages 6-7: Shaded areas identify the general locations of old-growth forests. Most “Recommended Short Walks” and “Recommended Scenic Drives” offer easy access to some really tall trees. Most of the “Suggested Hikes” in the chart on page 11 also traverse old-growth forests.

Even travelers on major highways will catch glimpse of these giants (just keep an eye on the road!): look for ancient coast redwoods along U.S. 199 through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, as well as on U.S. 101, especially just south of Crescent City, Calif. in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park—it’s not called the Redwood Highway for nothing!





# In Depth: Coastal Connections

## The (not so) Great Pacific Garbage Patch

We've all seen litter accumulate in cities and along roadways. Much of it collects in storm drains, canals, rivers, and streams where it flows into our oceans. Driven by currents—sometimes thousands of miles from its origin—some marine debris is deposited ashore by wind and tide. Indeed, take a walk along any beach in the world and you'll likely encounter ocean garbage. Even the seemingly pristine beaches of Redwood National and State Parks are not immune to this unsightly plight. But these are just the more visible signs of a larger problem—*much* larger.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a vast concentration of floating plastics, chemical sludge, and other debris gathered by oceanic currents. Waste from across the North Pacific Ocean is drawn in by the rotational movement of the North Pacific Gyre where it becomes “trapped” in a large and relatively stable region at its center. Estimates for the extent of the Garbage Patch vary by sampling method, but range from 270,000 mi<sup>2</sup> (700,000 km<sup>2</sup>) to 5,800,000 mi<sup>2</sup> (15,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>); some reports suggest up to “twice the size of the continental United States.”

Regardless of size, composition, and location, man-made debris and garbage simply do not belong in our oceans. Much more than an eyesore, it threatens human health and safety (on land and at sea), damages critical habitat, and kills wildlife: an estimated one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and seas turtles are killed each year by ingesting marine litter, entanglement, or choking.

**But you can help,** even if you live far from the ocean:

- Dispose of all trash properly.
- Participate in a beach, stream, or storm drain cleanup in your area.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle!
- Avoid buying plastic products (they can take centuries to degrade in the ocean).
- Avoid buying products with excessive packaging.

To learn more, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program online at [www.marinedebris.noaa.gov](http://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov)



May you never cross paths with “OG”: Ocean Garbage.

Giant green anemone (*Anthopleura xanthogrammica*): a familiar tidepool resident.

## Park Ranger's Pick: Pete Peterson on the Klamath River Overlook



A park ranger for 10 years, Pete Peterson lives in Gasquet, Calif.

AS A PARK RANGER, I'M OFTEN ASKED which place in the parks is my favorite. It's a tough question—there are so many incredible things to see and do here at Redwood National and State Parks. But for me, the Klamath River Overlook near Requa, Calif. is at the top of my list (see map on pages 6-7). Perched 650 feet above the Pacific Ocean, the overlook offers amazing views of the parks' rugged and scenic coastline. While most visitors come to Redwood for the world's tallest trees, few are aware of this vast and equally important resource: nearly 40 miles of pristine coastline are protected within these parklands out to a distance of ¼-mile offshore. From the Klamath River Overlook you'll begin to appreciate why.

Be forewarned, however: the overlook can be shrouded in coastal fog on many summer days or buffeted by high winds and drenching rain in winter. But on those extraordinary days when it's clear and calm, you can see hundreds of miles from this lofty vantage point. Below, offshore rocks, crags, and small islands known collectively as sea stacks provide critical nesting habitat for seabirds such as the common murre and the double-crested cormorant. Sea stacks also provide a safe place for sea lions and harbor seals to haul themselves out of the cold water to rest and soak-up some sunshine. Composed of harder, erosion-resistant rock, sea stacks are the remnants of an older coastline; centuries of ocean storms and pounding surf eroded the softer rocks away.

I'm equally compelled to the overlook for spectacular views of it's namesake—the mighty Klamath River. Here, at the river's mouth, freshwater merges with seawater after a journey of over 250 miles that begins high in the snow-laden Cascade Mountains of southern Oregon. The river drains a watershed of over 15,000 square miles (about three times the size of Connecticut) and is prime habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, sturgeon, lamprey, and several species of suckers. For millennia, the Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Shasta, and Klamath people have depended on these fisheries for their cultural livelihood.

## Wildlife of the Redwood Coast

Nowhere in Redwood National and State Parks is the wildlife more diverse than along the Pacific Ocean coast. A great variety of birds, tidepool inhabitants, sea mammals, and other creatures dwell in a rich mosaic of habitats provided by the sea. See map on pages 6-7 for locations mentioned below.

### Offshore

The Crescent City, Klamath River, and High Bluffs overlooks provide ideal offshore wildlife viewing opportunities. Also look for seals and sea lions from the Crescent City Harbor (exit Anchor Way off U.S. 101).

- Harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*)
- Pacific gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)
- Common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)
- Surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)
- California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*)

### Beaches

Sandy beaches ideal for birding include Crescent and Enderts beaches just south of Crescent City, Calif., Gold Bluff Beach in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, and Freshwater Beach southwest of Orick, Calif.

- Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)
- Western sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
- Western gull (*Larus occidentalis*)
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
- Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)



NPS COLLECTION



NPS COLLECTION

**Top:** A Pacific gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) breaches. **Bottom:** At the Klamath River Overlook, a park ranger-naturalist directs visitors' attention to wildlife near the mouth of the Klamath River.

But it's the opportunity to witness another amazing journey—a 12,000-mile roundtrip migration—that, for me, makes the Klamath River Overlook so special. From early December to the end of January, approximately 18,000 to 20,000 Pacific gray whales pass by the overlook as they migrate from feeding grounds off Alaska to the warm-water breeding lagoons of Baja California and Mexico. Then again, from mid-February to the end of May, they make the return trip north. At high tide on a calm, clear day visitors may see dozens of whales passing near the river mouth. Look for their distinctive 6-12 foot high “blow” as they exhale at the surface. And, if you're lucky, you may even see a “breach” which occurs when a whale launches its body out of the water.

Park ranger-naturalists regularly staff the Klamath River Overlook during March to assist whale watchers—inquire at any information center (see page 2) for schedules. I know I've enjoyed my time there, helping visitors from around the world catch a glimpse of these magnificent creatures for the first time in their life. For most of them, as well as for me, it's an experience that simply cannot be forgotten. Hope to see you there!

**Protect Yourself, Protect Your Coast!**  
See page 12 for safety information about visiting Redwood's coast.



### Tidepools

A ranger-led tidepool walk is a great way to experience these wondrous environments—inquire at any information center (see page 2) or campground bulletin board for details. Or, head out on your own to Enderts Beach or False Klamath Cove. However you explore, tread lightly and with care: tidepool creatures are delicate and their rocky habitat can be treacherous.

- California mussel (*Mytilus californianus*)
- Ochre sea star (*Evasterias troscheli*)
- Purple shore crab (*Hemigrapsus nudus*)
- Shield limpet (*Collisella pelta*)
- Giant green anemone (*Anthopleura xanthogrammica*)

### Sea Stacks

Common along the parks' northern coast, observe the sea stack life from False Klamath Cove, including the Yurok Loop Trail (see page 6), and from the numerous pull-outs along Pebble Beach Drive in Crescent City, Calif.: the 14-acre Castle Rock near Point St. George is a National Wildlife Refuge and home to the second-largest nesting seabird colony south of Alaska.

- Common murre (*Uria aalge*)
- Brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
- Black oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*)
- Pigeon guillemot (*Cepphus columba*)
- Double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)





Towering, ancient coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) thrive on the Smith River floodplain at Stout Grove (see “Recommended Short Walks” on page 6).

# Three Redwoods: All in the Subfamily

THOUGH WE OFTEN SIMPLY REFER TO the world’s tallest living trees on California’s North Coast as “redwoods,” there are in fact three distinct redwood species: dawn redwood, giant sequoia, and coast redwood. Much like the members of your family, the species in this subfamily (Sequoioideae) share a common ancestry and many similar characteristics while maintaining their own unique identities.

Fossil evidence suggests that redwoods descended from a group of conifers that thrived across Europe, Asia, and North America when dinosaurs roamed the Earth—in the Jurassic period more than 145 million years ago. As Earth’s climate gradually and generally became cooler and drier, redwoods became restricted to three distinctive geographic regions and evolved into the three species we know today.

All redwoods are cone-bearing trees and get their common name from their reddish-brown bark and heartwood. And, by whatever name, these magnificent trees have the uncanny ability to inspire awe and mystery. It’s a subfamily tradition!

**DAWN REDWOOD**  
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Thought to have been extinct for millions of years, the dawn redwood was rediscovered in 1944 by a forester in the Sichuan-Hubei region of China. Also popular as an ornamental today, the tree is easily distinguished from its California relatives by its smaller size and deciduous leaves.

**Distribution:** Central China.  
**Height:** To 140 feet (43 m).  
**Diameter:** To 6 feet (2 m).  
**Age:** Indeterminate.  
**Leaves:** Deciduous; needle-like with small stalk, arranged opposite each other.  
**Cone size:** Like a large olive; shed yearly.  
**Seed size:** Like a tomato seed.  
**Reproduction:** By seed.  
**Habitat/climate:** Indeterminate.

**GIANT SEQUOIA**  
*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

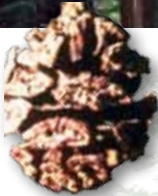
Quick-growing and long-lived (some over 3,000 years), no tree is more massive than the giant sequoia. The General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park is the most massive living thing on Earth, with an estimated total volume of over 50,000 cubic feet.

**Distribution:** Western slopes of Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California.  
**Height:** To 311 feet (95 m).  
**Diameter:** To 40 feet (12 m).  
**Age:** To more than 3,000 years.  
**Leaves:** Evergreen; awl-shaped, attached at base.  
**Cone size:** Like a chicken egg; can stay on tree for two decades.  
**Seed size:** Like an oat flake.  
**Reproduction:** By seed only.  
**Habitat/climate:** Seedlings require abundant light, are frost tolerant, and drought-resistant.

**COAST REDWOOD**  
*Sequoia sempervirens*

Coast redwoods are the tallest trees in the world. Dense forest stands grow on nutrient-rich river bars and flood plains, protected from the wind. Heavy winter rains and fog from the Pacific Ocean keeps the trees continually damp, even during summer droughts.

**Distribution:** Northern California coast, and into southernmost coastal Oregon.  
**Height:** To 370 feet (113 m) or more.  
**Diameter:** To 22 feet (7 m).  
**Age:** To more than 2,000 years.  
**Leaves:** Evergreen; both needle- and awl-shaped, attached at base.  
**Cone size:** Like a large olive; shed after 1-2 years.  
**Seed Size:** Like a tomato seed.  
**Reproduction:** By seed or sprout.  
**Habitat/climate:** Seedlings are shade-tolerant but frost sensitive; require abundant moisture.



Humble beginnings: Actual size of a coast redwood seed cone.  
NPS COLLECTION

### Watchable Wildlife: Roosevelt Elk

Roosevelt elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelti*) is the largest subspecies of North American elk and one of the most commonly seen mammals in Redwood National and State Parks. Though abundant today, as few as 15 Roosevelt elk remained in California in 1925 when one of the last herds made its stand in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Since then, protection of critical habitat in parks and surrounding areas has allowed the population to rebound.

Prime locations for viewing Roosevelt elk include (also see map on pages 6-7):

- **Elk Prairie:** Six miles north of Orick, Calif. or 34 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.
- **Elk Meadow:** Exit Davison Road three miles north of Orick, Calif. or 39 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 101.
- **Gold Bluffs Beach** (day-use fee area): From Elk Meadow (see above), continue four unpaved miles on Davison Road (trailers prohibited; motorhomes/RVs not advised).
- **Bald Hills Road:** Exit Bald Hills Road one mile north of Orick, Calif. or 41 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 101; continue about nine miles or more on Bald Hills Road to upland prairie and oak woodland habitat.

Elk may appear almost anywhere—even along major roads and the busy U.S. 101 corridor. Biologists think that road kills are among the major cause of death for elk in the parks. For your safety and theirs, please respect posted speed limits and always watch for wildlife.

Adult males (bulls) weigh up to 1,200 pounds and will aggressively guard their harems, especially during the fall mating season. Female cows may be very protective during calving season, typically May–June. **Never approach wild elk!** observe them from a distance with binoculars or photograph them with a telephoto lens.

## Marbled Murrelet: On the Edge of Extinction



SHELTERED IN A SOFT NEST OF MOSS AND FERNS, A MARBLED MURRELET CHICK waits silently atop a massive coast redwood branch high above the forest floor. It’s parents spend their day at sea diving for small fish, returning at dusk to feed their solitary offspring. Like the fog that shrouds the North Coast, the life of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) is connected to both forest and sea.

Nearby, a Steller’s jay hops along the forest floor scavenging for any morsel of food. Aggressive and incredibly intelligent—they can remember hundreds of different food locations—jays and their fellow corvids (ravens and crows) flourish at the ecologically-rich edges of the redwood forest.

The edges of this once unbroken forest have increased a hundred-fold in as many years. Logging, highways, cities, campgrounds, and picnic areas open broad boulevards into the heart of the coast redwood forest. Thus exposed, murrelet chicks and eggs make easy meals for crafty corvids. As the forest edge continues to expand, the marbled murrelet lives on the edge of extinction.

**You are the link!** Please: Never feed wildlife—ever. Keep campsites, picnic areas, and trails free of food and garbage. Leave no crumb behind! Together, we can ensure a place in the wild for a rare bird.

Jeff Denny, Park Ranger



# Redwood at a Glance

## Recommended Short Walks

**6 - 9** and **10 - 16** on map refer to Mid-Level Walks and Longer Day Hikes, respectively (see page 11 for more).

### Stout Grove Trail 1

Easy; Level trail surface

**Distance & Duration:** ~½ mile; 30 minutes.

**Location:** Signed access road to trailhead located on east end of Howland Hill Road (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below). In summer, a bridge over the Smith River provides easy access from Jedediah Smith Campground.

**Description:** This loop trail meanders among colossal redwoods thriving in the rich soils of the Smith River floodplain. Flood waters inhibit the growth of understory trees and plants seen in other groves, revealing the full stature of the 300-foot coast redwoods on display.

### Lady Bird Johnson Grove Trail 2

Easy-moderate; Level trail surface with grades.

**Distance & Duration:** ~1½ miles; 45-60 minutes.

**Location:** ~1 mile north of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101, turn east onto Bald Hills Road and continue 2½ miles to signed trailhead.

**Description:** This historic walk winds through upland stands of old-growth redwood, Douglas fir, and tanoak to the site where Lady Bird Johnson dedicated Redwood National Park in 1968. In spring, rhododendrons and azaleas abound, while vine and big-leaf maple reveal their bold colors in the fall. A brochure at the trailhead corresponds to marked interpretive stops along the trail.

### Circle Trail 3

Easy; Level trail surface

**Distance & Duration:** ~½ mile; 30 minutes.

**Location:** Trail begins at the well-marked Big Tree wayside, ~¾ mile north of Elk Prairie on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below).

**Description:** With access to Big Tree—one of the largest in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park—this trail offers time-pressed visitors an opportunity to experience a lush old-growth redwood forest.

### Revelation Trail 4

Easy; Level trail surface.

**Distance & Duration:** ~0.3 mile; 15 minutes.

**Location:** Trailhead located at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center, 1 mile north of U.S. 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below).

**Description:** Developed specifically for the visually impaired but enjoyable for all, this trail encourages you to engage all your senses: touch, hear, smell, and taste your way to a more complete understanding of the redwood ecosystem.

## Recommended Scenic Drives

### Coastal Drive

Mostly unpaved; Motorhomes/RVs and trailers prohibited.

**Distance & Duration:** ~9½ miles, one way; 1 hour.

### Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway

Paved; No commercial vehicles permitted.

**Distance & Duration:** 10 miles, one way; 20-30 minutes.



Stout Grove Trail



Lady Bird Johnson Grove Trail



Yurok Loop Trail

### Yurok Loop Trail 5

Easy; Level trail surface with non-steep grades.

**Distance & Duration:** ~1¼ miles; 45-60 minutes.

**Location:** Trailhead begins at the signed Lagoon Creek picnic area, 15 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. or ~6 1/2 miles north of Klamath, Calif. on U.S. 101.

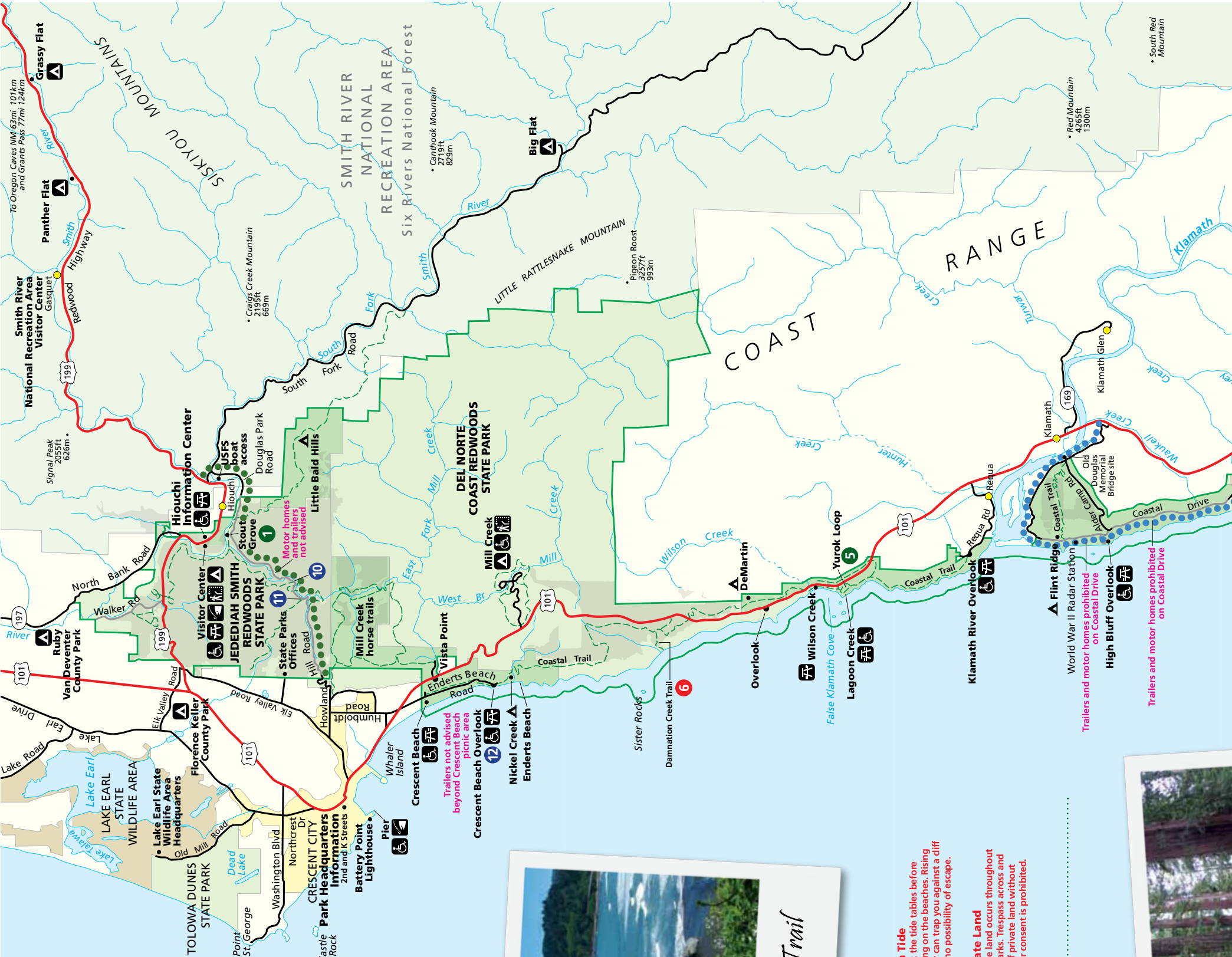
**Description:** With spectacular views of False Klamath Cove and Lagoon Creek, this trail traverses a fine example of coastal scrub forest plants, including Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, cow parsnip, wild cucumber, coltsfoot, yarrow, and a variety of berries. Bring along binoculars and scout for seabirds among the sea stacks.

### High Tide

Check the tide tables before walking on the beaches. Rising water can trap you against a cliff with no possibility of escape.

### Private Land

Private land occurs throughout the parks. Trespass across and use of private land without owner consent is prohibited.









# History & Culture

NPS COLLECTION



## A League of Their Own

The road was dusty and the trip was long back in 1917 when three men traveled from San Francisco to see for themselves the towering trees and the impending effect of the ax. So impressed were John C. Merriam, Professor Henry F. Osborn, and Madison Grant that they immediately sought means to preserve redwood groves for future generations.

In 1918 they established Save the Redwoods League and since then the non-profit organization has set aside more than 181,000 acres of redwood forest and supporting lands. Through public donations and matching funds from the State of California, the League purchases stands of redwoods and helps to raise worldwide awareness of redwoods. Portions of Redwood National and State Parks comprise land donated by the League. The brown and gold signs seen along trails and roadways represent the Memorial Grove Program, started in 1921. More than 950 groves, named for individuals and organizations, have been set up, with more being added each year. They are instrumental in saving redwoods.

Save the Redwoods League has about 20,000 members from all over the world. For more information, contact the League:

**Save the Redwoods League**  
114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200  
San Francisco, Calif. 94104

ph: 415-362-2352  
email: [info@SaveTheRedwoods.org](mailto:info@SaveTheRedwoods.org).  
web: [www.SaveTheRedwoods.org](http://www.SaveTheRedwoods.org).

Originally constructed by the DeMartin family in 1908, the Redwood National Park Hostel closed January 18, 2010.

## A Landscape of Change False Klamath Cove Yesterday & Today

AFTER 22 YEARS ACCOMMODATING TRAVELERS FROM AROUND the world, the Redwood National Park Hostel at Wilson Creek closed its doors indefinitely on January 18, 2010 due to insurmountable restoration costs. Certainly, this change will disappoint many visitors and locals alike, for whom this much-loved structure maintains an iconic status. But change is nothing new to this area. Indeed, False Klamath Cove has a long history as a culturally shared space and has witnessed significant change.

### “WHERE THE DIVISION COMES”

Since time immemorial, False Klamath Cove has marked the southern end of Tolowa, and the northern end of Yurok ancestral territory. On the north side of Wilson Creek is the Yurok village *O men hee-pur*, while south of Wilson Creek to Lagoon Creek is *O men* proper. The Tolowa of the Crescent City and Smith River area also claim ancestral ties to these village sites and call it *Daa-geshlh-ts’a’*. The people who lived in these villages were bilingual, though they tended to speak Yurok amongst themselves due to their proximity to the mouth of the Klamath River.

The last traditional headman of the Yurok village *Rek’ woy* (modern Requa, Calif.) was Captain Spott, born in 1844 of Yurok and Tolowa heritage at *O men hee-pur*. His adopted son, Robert Spott, referred to the Lagoon Creek village as *Otegoreyet* (“Where the division comes”), because here both law and language changed.

Both the Tolowa and Yurok managed the landscape for cultural purposes, maintaining productive tracts of open land using low intensity fires. This practice created large open prairies that attracted European-American settlers in the mid-19th century, initiating a period of violent and devastating upheaval for the native people. This was followed by the arrival, in the 1870s, of more peaceably inclined settlers.

### THE DEMARTIN HOMESTEAD

In 1877, Swiss-American Louis Peter DeMartin and his family homesteaded a large area of coastal prairies and some forested lands from south of Damnation Creek to Hidden Beach, south of False Klamath Cove. The DeMartins originally tried ranching sheep, but bears and mountain lions took many animals. They diversified the ranching operation, even using their home as a hostelry for travelers on the coastal trail, charging 25 cents a room.

Before completion of the wagon road to Crescent City in 1894, Louis and another settler on the Klamath River contracted with Captain Spott to transport their produce from the mouth of the Klamath River to Wilson Creek, and then on to Crescent City and back, as many as five times a summer from 1877 until 1894. In his



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COURTESY/HERIE MORRIS

**Top:** Rek’woy headman Captain Spott, born at *O men hee-pur* just north of Wilson Creek in 1844. **Bottom:** View of False Klamath Cove (including the DeMartin ranch house) as seen in the late 1940s—compare with today’s landscape.

large oceangoing “cargo” canoe, Captain Spott and his crew of six paddlers received \$75 in American money for this service.

Louis and Agnes DeMartin had nine children while living at False Klamath Cove. Louis died in 1907 and the house that still stands today was built by his sons in 1908. Agnes lived at Wilson Creek for the rest of her life with her children.

### A TALE OF TWO PARKS

In 1944, the bulk of the ranch was sold to Miriam Kelly Rudisill. Miriam and her husband Henry continued the ranching operation while using their large house as a bed and breakfast. Eventually, they also developed a subdivision of about a dozen houses called “Giant Redwood Park” north of Wilson Creek on Rudisill Road. Further development was halted, however, by the creation of Redwood National Park in the late 1960s. Most of the original DeMartin ranch, too, was legislatively acquired for the park.

In 1987, the National Park Service contracted with the non-profit Hostelling International USA to provide affordable accommodations for park visitors. Since then, more than 75,000 culturally diverse travelers enjoyed the overnight hospitality of the DeMartin ranch house. While the ultimate fate of the building remains undecided, its continued presence reminds us that this area of rich history and incomparable beauty—whether called *O men*, *Daa-geshlh-ts’a’*, DeMartin Ranch, Giant Redwood Park, or False Klamath Cove—is very much a culturally shared landscape where change will come again.

*James Wheeler, Park Ranger*

## Dance Demonstrations

Each summer, members of the Tolowa and Yurok tribes demonstrate traditional dances for visitors in Redwood National and State Parks.

The Tolowa demonstrate *Nadosh*, a renewal dance, at the Jedediah Smith Campground day-use area, 9 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 101. The Yurok perform the traditional Brush Dance at the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center, 1 mile south of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101.

Dances are sponsored by Redwood Park Association and are open to the public and free of charge. Each begins with an overview of the dance’s cultural significance.

For times, dates, and additional information, please call 707-465-7304 or 707-465-7335.

**Left to right:** Tolowa dancers perform *Nadosh* at the Jedediah Smith Campground; Yurok demonstrate the Brush Dance at Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center near Orick, Calif.



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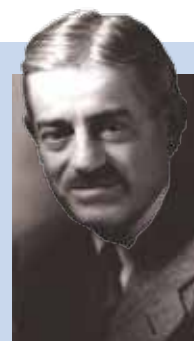
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## Who’s Newton B. Drury?

Perhaps you’ve driven the parkway named in his honor, or seen his name above the entryway to the Crescent City Information Center. But who was Newton B. Drury?

Considered by many “the man who saved the redwoods,” Drury dedicated 40 years of his life to preserving these forests and was instrumental in securing hundreds of thousands of acres as parkland. A fitting symbol of the continuing partnership between the National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Save the Redwoods League, Drury served as director of all three organizations during his career.

In reference to the values of his country’s natural and cultural treasures, Drury noted, “this nation of ours is not so rich it can afford to lose them; it is still rich enough to afford to preserve them.”



**Newton B. Drury**  
1889-1978

NPS COLLECTION





Students at the Wolf Creek Education Center observe wildlife during a field study.

# For Kids / Education

## Salmon's Journey

PACIFIC SALMON BRING ENERGY FROM THE OCEAN INTO THE redwood forest. Scientists think that more than 60 species of plants and animals benefit directly from this energy flow. Help the salmon swim through the watershed:

Trace the letters in "REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS," in order and without spaces, in the puzzle at right.

Start Here

After you've finished the puzzle, decode the special message hidden with-in! Without using any "X"s or any of the letters you traced in "REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS," write the leftover letters on the lines below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_!

R	E	X	X	P	R	X
X	X	D	X	X	X	X
O	X	W	X	T	E	X
X	X	O	X	X	X	C
T	X	X	O	D	X	X
Y	O	X	X	X	N	X
X	X	U	X	X	A	X
R	X	X	X	T	X	X
P	X	X	I	X	X	A
X	X	O	X	X	R	K
X	N	X	X	X	X	L
X	A	X	X	N	X	X
X	X	L	A	X	D	X
A	X	X	X	X	S	X
X	N	X	X	X	T	X
D	X	X	T	A	X	X
S	X	E	X	X	X	X
X	X	P	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	A	R	K	S



### Be a Junior Ranger!

Want to learn even more about your parks and earn some cool prizes along the way? Two different programs are available at Redwood National and State Parks for Junior Rangers age 7-12. They're fun, informative, and free!

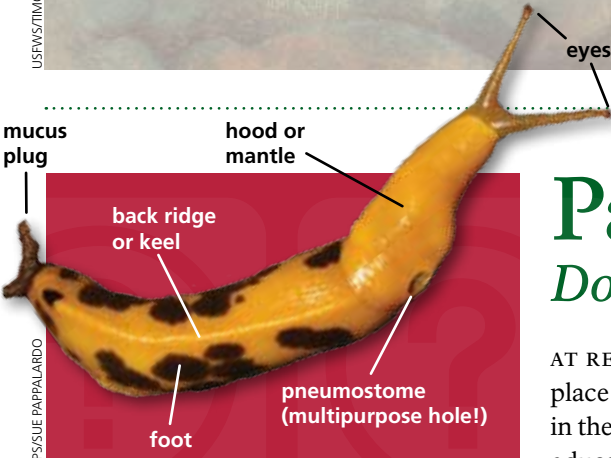
#### California State Parks Junior Ranger

From games and crafts to hikes and wildlife observation, explore some of the best places in California and make new friends along the way. To get started and receive your official badge, ask any ranger or at any information center (see page 2) for the time and place of the next Junior Ranger activity. There's lots of activities to do, and the more you finish, the more prizes you get! But you don't have to do them all at Redwood: You can continue at over 70 other parks around the state!

#### National Park Junior Ranger

Visit any information center (see page 2) for a copy of the free Junior Ranger Activity Newspaper. To earn an official sticker or badge, just complete the activities at your own pace while exploring the parks with your family. When you're done, return to any information center to take the Junior Ranger pledge and collect your prize!

Here at Redwood National and State Parks, we're proud of our Junior Rangers. They are true partners in helping preserve these special places for future generations. Thank you!



## Parks as Classrooms

### Don't Get Left Inside!

AT REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS, LEARNING TAKES place at all levels! For over a quarter century, two outdoor schools in the parks have offered unique, hands-on, curriculum-based education programming. National park education rangers guide students, parents, and teachers in resource-immersed field studies directly related to redwood ecosystems and the rich cultural histories of the area. All programs are aligned with National Science Standards and California Department of Education content standards for natural science, social science, and the arts.

#### HOWLAND HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Situated above the Mill Creek watershed near the towering coast redwoods of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Howland Hill Outdoor School offers a variety of day-long and overnight experiences for students in preschool through sixth grade. Many students who took part in these programs in the early 1980s now return as teachers or parent chaperones, providing important generational connections to the outdoor school and the parks.

#### WOLF CREEK EDUCATION CENTER

Started in 1972 as a grassroots effort by local teachers eager to study the newly created Redwood National Park, today the Wolf Creek Education Center provides overnight programs (2½ days, including 2 nights lodging) for fourth through sixth grade students. Ideally located near Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, in-depth study focuses on prairies, wetlands and streams, and the ancient coast redwood forest.



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Top: students share discoveries during a "slideshow" activity at the Howland Hill Outdoor School. Bottom: A school bus passes through the Wolf Creek Education Center entrance gate.

Programs and facility use are by reservation only. Weekend and shoulder season rental of the facilities for redwood ecosystems-related study may also be available. For more information, please contact the Education Specialist at 707-465-7391 or visit us online at [www.nps.gov/redw/forteachers](http://www.nps.gov/redw/forteachers).





Keeping a clean, green camp scene at the Jedediah Smith Campground.

## Campgrounds

**Jedediah Smith Campground**  
*Situated in a magnificent old-growth redwood grove on the banks of the Smith River, this campground offers hiking trails, swimming, fishing, and seasonal campfire programs.*  
**Location:** Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, 10 miles east of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 199.  
**Open:** Year-round.  
**Sites:** 86 tent or RV (no hook-ups); hiker/biker sites available.  
**Facilities:** Hot showers, ADA accessible restrooms, dump station, picnic tables, firepits and barbecues, food lockers and trash receptacles, visitor center, campfire center.  
**Vehicle Length Limit:** 36-foot RV or 31-foot trailer  
**Fees:** \$35 per night, \$5 per hiker/biker; \$8 day-use only

**Mill Creek Campground**  
*Sleep beneath towering maples, alders, and young coast redwoods, with access to Mill Creek, miles of varied hiking trails, and seasonal campfire programs.*  
**Location:** Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, 7 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 101.  
**Open:** May 1 through September 7  
**Sites:** 145 tent or RV (no hook-ups); hiker/biker sites available  
**Facilities:** Hot showers, ADA accessible restrooms, dump station, picnic tables, firepits and barbecues, food lockers and trash receptacles, campfire center.  
**Vehicle Length Limit:** 31-foot RV or 27-foot trailers  
**Fees:** \$35 per vehicle and \$5 per hiker/biker

**Gold Bluffs Beach Campground**  
*Experience the wild Pacific coastline and grazing Roosevelt elk in this campground, with easy access to a secluded stretch of beach, Fern Canyon, and 70 miles of hiking and biking trails.*  
**Location:** Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, 10 miles north of Orick, Calif. on Davison Road (unpaved).  
**Open:** Year-round.  
**Sites:** 26 tent or RV (no hook-ups); 3 environmental sites.  
**Facilities:** Solar showers, restrooms, wind shelters, picnic tables, firepits and barbecues.  
**Vehicle Length Limit:** 24-foot RV, no trailers  
**Fees:** \$35 per vehicle, \$20 for environmental sites, \$8 for day-use only.



NPS COLLECTION

**Elk Prairie Campground**  
*Enjoy ancient redwoods, grazing Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer in Elk Prairie, easy access to over 70 miles of hiking and biking trails, and seasonal campfire programs.*  
**Location:** Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, 6 miles north of Orick, Calif. on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.  
**Open:** Year-round.  
**Sites:** 75 tent or RV (no hook-ups); hiker/biker sites available.  
**Facilities:** Hot showers, ADA accessible restrooms, picnic tables, firepits and barbecues, food lockers and trash receptacles, visitor center, campfire center.  
**Vehicle Length Limit:** 27-foot RV or 24-foot trailer  
**Fees:** \$35 per vehicle, \$5 per hiker/biker, \$8 for day-use only



**Campground Reservations**  
Reservations are accepted and strongly recommended for camping at the Jedediah Smith, Mill Creek, and Elk Prairie campgrounds between May 1 and September 30. Reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling 1-800-444-7275 or online at [www.ReserveAmerica.com](http://www.ReserveAmerica.com).

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## Backcountry Camping

Backcountry camping in Redwood National and State Parks is allowed only in designated backcountry camps (except at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars—see below).

Unless indicated otherwise under “Additional Info.” (see chart, below), all backcountry camps feature picnic tables, firepits, food storage lockers, and toilet.

Designated Camp	Primary Access	Horses	Bikes	Fee	Additional Info.
North of Klamath River					
Little Bald Hills	Little Bald Hills Trail	✓	✓	Free	Non-potable water spigot, horse trough, & corral. No permit required.
Nickel Creek	Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section			Free	Permit required, available from Crescent City Information Center.
DeMartin	Coastal Trail - DeMartin Section			Free	No permit required.
South of Klamath River					
Flint Ridge	Coastal Trail - Flint Ridge Section			Free	No permit required.
Ossagon Creek	Ossagon Trail & Coastal Trail		✓	\$5 person/day	Obtain permit & pay fee at Prairie Creek entrance station kiosks.
Miners Ridge	Miners Ridge Trail			\$5 person/day	Potable water. Obtain permit & pay fee at Prairie Creek entrance station kiosks.
Elam Creek	Orick Horse Trail (Elam Creek Loop)	✓		Free	Non-potable water spigot & corral. Permit required, avail. from Kuchel Visitor Center.
44 Camp	Orick Horse Trail (Fortyfour Creek Loop)			Free	Backpackers only. Permit required, available from Kuchel Visitor Center.
Redwood Creek (dispersed)	Redwood Creek Trail			Free	Permit required, avail. from Kuchel Visitor Center. Dispersed camping only on gravel bars upstream of Bond Creek and no closer than ¼-mile from Tall Trees Grove.

## Backcountry Basics

Backcountry travel and camping require careful planning in order to ensure a safe and rewarding experience. Visitors should adhere to national and state park regulations and are further encouraged to follow Leave No Trace guidelines to minimize their impact on the environment. Additional regulations may apply for traveling and camping with bicycles or horses (see page 11).

Leave No Trace principles are rooted in scientific studies and common sense. The message is framed under seven Leave No Trace Principles presented below with accompanying regulations and guidelines specific to Redwood National and State Parks.

- 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- Camping is permitted only in designated backcountry camps (except at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars—backpackers only);
  - Pets, motorized vehicles, and hunting are prohibited on trails.
  - While permits may be required for use of some areas, there is no backcountry registration system—be sure to notify others of your travel itinerary.
  - Overnight stays are limited to a maximum of 5 consecutive days; 15 in a calendar year.
  - Proper food storage is required: Store food, garbage, cooking gear, and all odorous items in food storage lockers (where available), in food storage canisters available at the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center, or suspended from a tree at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from the trunk.
  - Inquire at a visitor center about trail conditions, water levels, fire danger levels, and tick/poison oak information.

- 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- Do not clear new ground for camping; camp only in designated backcountry campsites (except at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars—backpackers only).
  - Stay on established trails; do not short-cut switchbacks (it’s destructive and illegal).

- 3. Dispose of Waste Properly**
- Store all garbage in a manner that will prevent access by wildlife (see #1, above).
  - Pack out all trash; do not dispose of garbage in pit toilets.
  - Bury human waste 6-8 inches deep, at least 100 feet from water, camp, and trails. Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.
  - Wash yourself, cookware, and/or dishes 100 feet away from water; strain food particles and pack them out or scatter well away from campsite and 100 feet away from waterways.

- 4. Leave What You Find**
- Collecting or disturbing natural features, plants, rocks, antlers, and cultural or archeological resources is prohibited. As part of our heritage, please leave these resources as they are found for all to enjoy.
  - Mushroom gathering or possession is illegal.

- 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- Ask about fire danger levels at an information center (see page 2) before heading-out.
  - Strive to use portable stoves only; campfires are restricted to designated fire pits and on Redwood Creek gravel bars.
  - Do not leave fires smoldering or unattended.
  - Except at the Miners Ridge and Ossagon Creek campsites (driftwood only), collect no more than 50 pounds of dead and downed wood per day per campsite.

**6. Respect Wildlife**

**7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

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### CAUTION

Redwood Creek is powerful and dangerous during high water flows. Always check with a park ranger or inquire at any information center (see page 2) for the latest conditions. Two bridges over the creek (via the Redwood Creek Trail) are only in place during summer, usually June–September.





Hundreds of miles of trails beckon hikers, bikers, and horseback riders in Redwood National and State Parks.

# Choose Your Own Adventure!

More than 200 miles of trails traverse a mosaic of habitats at Redwood National and State Parks. Whatever your interest, experience, or fitness level, there's a trail adventure for you!

The information in this visitor guide alone does not ensure a safe and enjoyable trail experience. Inquire at any information center (see page 2) for trip-planning advice and trail conditions. Maps and guidebooks are also available at cooperating association bookstores and are an essential part of any trail user's pack.



### Trailhead Security

Whenever leaving your vehicle, secure all valuables and keep them out of sight. Better yet, take them with you!



## Hiking

Suggested hikes in the chart below are just a sample of possible adventures and may not be suitable for everyone. Circled numbers next to each trail/route name reference trailhead locations indicated on the map on pages 6-7. Mid-level walks/hikes are shown in red; longer day hikes in blue. Short on time? Check-out “Recommended Short Walks” **1 – 5** on page 6.



## Bicycles

Bicycles are permitted on all public roadways open to vehicle traffic, as well as on designated backcountry bicycle routes:

**Little Bald Hills Trail**  
**Camp:** Little Bald Hills Camp

**Coastal Trail**  
*Last Chance & Gold Bluffs Beach sections*

**Ossagon Trail**  
**Camp:** Ossagon Creek Camp

**Davison Trail**

**Streelow Creek Trail**

**Lost Man Creek Trail**

Biker/hiker campsites are available at the Jedediah Smith, Mill Creek, and Elk Prairie Campgrounds and at two designated backcountry camps (see page 10). For more information, including a free Bicycle Routes brochure, contact any information center or visit us online at [www.nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/bikes](http://www.nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/bikes)



## Horses

Horses (and riders!) are welcome on three designated trails, with opportunities for short day rides or multi-day pack trips. Camping is allowed at two stock-ready sites along these routes (see “Backcountry Camping” on page 10):

**Little Bald Hills Trail**  
**Camp:** Little Bald Hills Camp

**Mill Creek Horse Trail**  
*Day-use only.*

**Orick Horse Trail**  
**Camp:** Elam Creek Camp

Animals may not graze park vegetation, and must be hobbled or tied to a hitching post when unattended. Carry only pellets or weed-free feed.

For more information including maps, trailheads, distances, and a free Horseback Riding brochure, contact any information center or visit us online at [www.nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/horses](http://www.nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/horses).



## Pets

While pets are family, a national or state park may not be the best place for them. Some pets may mark territory with scent or spread domestic disease, interfering with natural patterns and causing injury to wildlife. Even normally well-behaved pets can become stressed by unfamiliar surroundings, threatening visitors and wildlife in close situations, such as on trails. Predators including mountain lions, bears, and coyotes may see pets as prey, placing both pet and owner in danger.

For the safety of visitors and *all* animals (domestic and wild), and for the continued protection of your parklands, pets—with the exception of guide animals—are not allowed on park trails, at ranger-led programs, or in park buildings. Pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length are allowed on all road-accessible beaches (excluding dune habitat), within 100 feet of public roads and parking areas, and at designated picnic areas, only.

Thank you for your cooperation!



## Suggested Hikes

Trail/Route Name(s)	Trailhead(s)	Distance/Duration (Approx.)	Difficulty	Additional Info.
Mid-Level Walks/Hikes				
<b>6</b> <b>Damnation Creek</b>	Pullout at milepost 16 on west side of U.S. 101	4¼ miles (out and back) / 3 hours round-trip	Strenuous: Steep 1100-foot descent/ ascent (out and back) with switchbacks.	Old-growth redwoods, Damnation Creek, rugged coast and tidepools.
<b>7</b> <b>South Fork / Rhododendron / Brown Creek</b>	1¾ miles north of Elk Prairie on east side of Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	3½-mile loop / 2 hours	Moderate (overall): Steep ascent on South Fork Trail.	Loop: South Fork Trail east, Rhododendron Trail northwest, Brown Creek Trail south.
<b>8</b> <b>Prairie Creek / Foothill</b>	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of U.S. 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	2½-mile loop / 1 hour	Easy (overall): Relatively level.	Loop: Prairie Creek Trail north, east across parkway to Foothill Trail, Foothill Trail south, west across parkway to Prairie Creek Visitor Center.
<b>9</b> <b>Trillium Falls</b>	Elk Meadow Day Use Area: 3 miles north of Orick, Calif. off U.S. 101.	2¾-mile loop / 1½ hours	Moderate: Some non-steep grades.	Old-growth redwoods, Trillium falls, Roosevelt elk.
Longer Day Hikes				
<b>10</b> <b>Mill Creek</b>	1½ miles southwest of Stout Grove on Howland Hill Rd., <b>or</b> just across footbridge from Jedediah Smith Campground ( <i>summer only</i> )	6 miles (out and back) <b>or</b> 5 miles as a loop via Stout Grove and Howland Hill Road ( <i>summer only</i> ) / 3-4 hours	Easy: Relatively level.	Mill Creek Footbridges across Smith River (from/to Jedediah Smith Campground) and Mill Creek available in summer only.
<b>11</b> <b>Boy Scout Tree</b>	<i>From Crescent City, Calif.:</i> 3½ miles east of Elk Valley Road on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).	5½ miles (out and back) / 4 hours round-trip	Moderate: Some steep grades with switchbacks.	Old-growth redwoods, riparian corridor, Fern Falls, Boy Scout Tree (optional).
<b>12</b> <b>Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section</b> Crescent Beach Overlook to Damnation Creek Trail	Crescent Beach Overlook: Southern end of Enderts Beach Road (just south of Crescent City, Calif.).	13 miles (out and back) / 6-9 hours round-trip	Strenuous: Steep 1000-foot descent/ ascent (out and back) over 1-mile section south of Nickel Creek.	Ocean views, Enderts Beach (via side trip), Damnation Creek, old-growth redwoods
<b>13</b> <b>Fern Canyon / Friendship Ridge / West Ridge / Coastal Trail</b>	Fern Canyon Trailhead and parking area at end of Davison Road	7-mile loop / 4 hours	Moderate (overall): Steep grades and switchbacks on Friendship Ridge Trail.	Loop: Fern Canyon Trail east, Friendship Ridge Trail north, West Ridge Trail northwest, Coastal Trail south.
<b>14</b> <b>James Irvine / Clintonia / Miners Ridge</b>	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of U.S. 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	6½-mile loop / 3-4 hours	Moderate (overall): Some steep grades on Clintonia and Miners Ridge trails	James Irvine Trail northwest, Clintonia Trail south, Miners Ridge Trail southeast.
<b>15</b> <b>James Irvine / Fern Canyon / Davison Road / Miners Ridge</b>	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of U.S. 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	12-mile loop / 6 hours	Moderate (overall): Some steep grades on Miners Ridge Trail.	James Irvine Trail northwest then southwest into Fern Canyon, Davison Road south, Miners Ridge Trail southeast.
<b>Tall Trees</b> <b>16</b> <i>Trailhead accessible only via free permit form Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center or Crescent City Info. Ctr.</i>	6½ miles southeast of U.S. 101 on Bald Hills Road, then 6½ miles south on unpaved Tall Trees Access Road.	3½-mile semi-loop / 4 hours ( <i>includes drive to/from trailhead</i> )	Moderately strenuous: 800-foot descent/ascent (out and back) over 1¼ miles to/from Tall Trees Grove.	Old-growth redwoods, Redwood Creek access, Tall Trees Grove.



# Supertrees: Saving Our Planet!

HOW IS A COAST REDWOOD LIKE A superhero? To answer this riddle, we need to understand the relationship between trees, carbon dioxide, and climate change.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is considered the leading greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. It acts like a blanket around our planet, trapping the warmth absorbed from the sun and preventing it from radiating back out into space. In the last 200 years, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have risen sharply, from 280 ppm (parts per million) to 386 ppm in 2008—more than a 33 percent increase. To put this in perspective, consider that carbon dioxide levels had not risen above 300 ppm in the previous 10,000 years.

Along with the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation (including the logging of forests), is considered one of the main reasons for this increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. If these activities continue at current rates, rising temperatures could lead to the extinction of 9 to 31 percent of Earth's plants and animals species by 2050.

One thing we can do to combat this trend is to promote the storage, or *sequestration*, of carbon on land through (re-)foresta-

tion. Through the process of photosynthesis, trees (and all other plants) use the sun's energy to convert carbon molecules in atmospheric carbon dioxide into sugar, which is then incorporated into needles, wood, bark and roots. Until these plant parts decompose or are consumed by other organisms, they continue to sequester carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere.

As the tallest living things in the world, coast redwoods can grow higher than 370 feet and live more than 2,000 years. Even after they die, it can take more than 500 years for them to decompose. So, redwoods store an immense amount of carbon for a very long time. This makes them the ideal plant-based carbon vessel, or *sink*, for carbon storage.

How much carbon dioxide do coast redwoods remove from the atmosphere? It is estimated that a mature coast redwood tree holds more than 400,000 pounds of carbon in its trunk alone—the equivalent of about 800 tons of carbon dioxide. Since the average American produces roughly 1,600 tons of carbon dioxide emissions in his or her lifetime, just two mature coast redwoods have the capacity to offset your entire carbon footprint for life!




*Sequoia sempervirens*: The Caped Sequesterer.


What can you do to help? Plant a redwood! If redwoods don't grow well in your area, plant another (preferably native) kind of tree. You may also consider contributing to organizations that preserve redwoods, like Save the Redwoods League (see page 8).

So, as you admire the magnificent coast redwoods of Redwood National and State Parks, remember that their not-so-secret identity conceals the qualities of a superhero: they could be saving our planet!

*Christine Walters, Park Ranger*



CLIMATEFriendly PARKS



From seashores and lakeshores to glaciers and deserts, the impacts of climate change are already taking their toll on our national and state parks. As stewards of these resources, the National Park Service and California State Parks are taking a leading role in climate change response. Through the Climate Friendly Parks and Cool Parks programs, Redwood National and State Parks is assessing and reducing its contribution to climate change while educating staff and visitors about its impacts. These actions help preserve our natural and cultural treasures for future generations.

Here's just some of the more visible actions Redwood's already taking towards becoming a Climate Friendly Park:



In collaboration with Humboldt State University's Schatz Energy Research Center, existing facilities are being retrofitted with energy efficient technologies that reduce or eliminate energy consumption.



Fleet sizes have been reduced and conventional vehicles replaced with fuel/energy efficient models.



Recycling for a variety of materials is available throughout the parks—look for receptacles at day use areas, information centers, and campgrounds. Steel propane cylinder drop-off locations are available at all campgrounds: any usable fuel will be made available to other campers; staff safely and completely remove remaining fuel from "empty" canisters so that they can be recycled by a local steel recycler.

Visit Climate Friendly Parks online at [www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks](http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks). To learn more about Cool Parks, visit [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24872](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24872).

Also check-out Do Your Part!—an interactive online program for park visitors and supporters with information and tools to understand and reduce their carbon footprints and thereby help to protect our parks from climate change: [www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/doyourpart](http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/doyourpart)



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. **Rethink.**

## Be a VIP: Volunteer-In-Parks!

Volunteers play an ever-increasing role in our national and state parks. At Redwood, VIPs work side-by-side with National Park Service and California State Park employees to help care for these special places. Whether staffing an information center front desk, serving as a campground host, assisting park scientists in the field or lab, or picking up litter, volunteers are true stewards of our natural and cultural heritage!

We welcome VIPs from all over the United States and the world to live and work in this special place (housing may be available to qualified volunteers). To learn about available VIP opportunities and to apply online, visit [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov).

For opportunities as a campground host, visit [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=886](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=886)



*Planting redwoods at the Mill Creek Watershed*

## Protect Yourself...

### Beach Safety

Before hitting the beach, check for storm or high surf advisories and be aware of changing tide levels—tide charts are available at all information centers (see page 2). Never turn your back on the surf: large "rogue" or "sneaker" waves may strike unexpectedly. Supervise children at all times.

### Tsunamis

Most commonly caused by earthquakes, tsunamis are series of large waves or surges that may strike the coast for eight hours or longer. If you feel an earthquake, see the ocean suddenly recede, or receive any other tsunami warning: immediately move inland or to higher ground; stay away from coastal areas until officials permit you to return.

### Poison Oak

*Leaves of three, let them be!* Poison oak occurs in various forms in the parks—it can be vine-like or a free-standing shrub. Stay on trails and look for the three distinctive, smooth, shiny leaflets that are bright green or red in new shoots or during the dry season. Contact with leaves can cause an itchy skin rash—wash thoroughly if you brush against poison oak.

### Ticks

Ticks carrying Lyme disease occur in the area. Stay on trails and check clothing frequently (light-colored clothes enhances visibility). Tuck pant legs into socks shirts into pants. Inspect your body thoroughly after hiking.

### High Winds

Avoid old-growth forests in high wind. Entire trees or heavy branches ("widow-makers") can fall from hundreds of feet above at high speeds.

### Mountain Lions

Mountain lions, or cougars, are seldom seen in these parks. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous. To prevent an encounter: hike in groups (not alone) and keep children close—don't let them run ahead on the trail; keep a clean camp; always be alert to your surroundings. If you do meet a mountain lion: do **NOT** run, crouch down, or bend over—stand and face the animal; pick-up children and appear large; remain calm and back away slowly, giving the animal a chance to leave the area; if the animal approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, and throw objects; if attacked, fight back!



## ...Protect Your Parks

### Tidepools

While exploring, protect yourself and the fragile creatures that live here: step carefully among slick rocks; return all rocks and tidepool life to their original position and orientation; be aware of changing tides.

### Aquatic Hitchhikers

Help prevent the spread of invasive species such as New Zealand mudsnail, quagga mussel, and Asian clam. Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water. When leaving water: remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or other animals from recreational equipment and drain water before transporting; clean and dry any equipment or clothing that comes into contact with water.

### Invasive Plants and Diseases

Sudden Oak Death is a disease killing millions of oak and tanoak trees in Calif. and Ore. A root-rotting fungus is killing Port-Orford-cedar throughout its limited range. Non-native invasive plants such as Scotch broom, English ivy, and yellow starthistle compete with native plants and alter ecosystems. You can help: stay on established trails; clean mud and debris from shoes, pets, livestock, and tires before exploring your parks.

### Marine Mammals

Marine mammals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Stay at least 75 feet away—like all park animals, they're wild, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous. Never approach seal pups on the beach—they're resting and waiting for their mothers to bring food.

## Help Keep Wildlife Wild!

Wildlife are attracted to human food, garbage, and other odorous items. Bears that associate people with food become aggressive and often have to be killed. Human food can boost jay and raven numbers, resulting in increased predation of threatened and endangered bird species like the marbled murrelet (see page 5). **Please, for your safety and theirs:**

- Never feed wildlife—Ever!
- Properly dispose of all garbage—even crumbs.
- Store food and other smelly items in airtight containers, out-of-sight in a locked car or bear-proof locker.

Please report bear or mountain lion sightings to any information center (see page2).

